Changing Lives One Family At A Time: John & Nora

What would you do if after a long day at work, you arrived home to find out that you’d been evicted?

That’s exactly what happened to John, his wife Nora, and their two children. After living in their house for more than 20 years, they had only 30 days to find a new place to live.

Unable to afford the deposit and first month’s rent for a new apartment, the family began moving from motel to motel.

This went on for a full year. 365 days of four people sharing one small motel room. 365 days without a kitchen to cook dinner in. 365 days without a place to call home.

Then, John and Nora discovered West Valley Community Services - and things began to look up. Working with their case manager, John and Nora accessed the food pantry, enrolled in financial coaching, and searched for stable housing options.

And last month, after working with West Valley Community Services, John, Nora and their two children moved into a new home.

That moment of victory belongs to our donors and volunteers, who made a big difference in the lives of John, Nora, and the more than 2,200 people who come to West Valley Community Services each year.

Seagate: Partners in Community

Making a positive impact is a core value of Seagate Technology, and last fall, a team of Seagate employees, in partnership with Rebuilding Together, put that value to work right here at West Valley Community Services. What began as a painting proposal for our lobby, client rooms, and community room became an incredible first floor makeover, thanks to Seagate champions Brian, Carrie, Jennifer, and Ben Martin.

Carrie and Brian are both Seagate employees and incredible community volunteers: Carrie is a Senior Director in Corporate Quality, and Brian is the Senior Director of Seagate’s Environment, Health, Safety, and Sustainability organization. Community engagement is a big part of their family life: daughter Jennifer is a Rebuilding Together house captain, and son Ben has worked on six Rebuilding Together projects so far.

Richard Kanes, Seagate’s Senior Director of Internal Communications and Community Engagement, had this to say about the Martins: "When a community need is presented to Carrie and Brian, they go above and beyond to fill that need. They serve as role models for other Seagate employees interested in giving back to our local community".

Seagate volunteers spent a full weekend day at West Valley Community Services refreshing the paint on the

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**WVCS Unveils New Strategic Plan**

The last five years have produced great changes in the Bay Area. While the economic recovery has brought high employment and prosperity to Silicon Valley, it has also contributed to a serious affordable housing crisis and significant divisions between rich and poor in one of the most expensive places to live in the United States.

In light of these challenges facing our clients and our communities, the West Valley Community Services Board and Staff embarked on a seven month journey to create a new strategic plan, a road map to guide our work over the next 3 to 5 years.

The process included stakeholder interviews with current and former board members, clients, donors, staff, partner organizations, and community members, as well as a full strategic analysis of the changing demographics and needs of low income and homeless folks in the valley. We looked closely at new and emerging trends in the field, the most recent census data for our service area, and data about the number of low income folks that are moving out of the Bay Area in order to get an idea of the long impact of stagnant wages, increased traffic, and limited housing on our community’s most vulnerable residents.

As a results of this work, we are proud to announce our new mission statement:

**Uniting the community to fight hunger and homelessness.**

This mission will be guided by the **vision** of a community where every person has food on the table and every person has a roof over their head.

Our mission and vision are complemented by a new set of **core values**: Compassion, Dignity, Integrity, Service and Diversity

With a new mission, vision, and values to guide us, we have outlined four strategic priorities four strategic priorities that will focus our work in order to ensure that we can continue to appropriately address the changes facing our community and our clients. These priorities will help West Valley Community Services:

- Serve more clients throughout our service area
- Take a leadership role in advocacy

**Volunteer Spotlight: Joan Trampenau**

**Volunteer Role:** Food Pantry and Grocery Rescue

**Why I Volunteer:** I volunteer because I enjoy it! I truly feel that I get more from my volunteer work than I give. I've always donated to nonprofits, but after I retired I wanted to be actively involved in something close to home and working with WVCS fits the bill. I work with a great Friday morning food pantry team. We have very appreciative clients and it's good to see food used, not wasted.

**Impact on WVCS:** I shop at Trader Joe's in Cupertino and I always smile to myself when I see their sign near the checkout about supporting WVCS with donations of food. I know I helped many of their donations get to those in need. It's a nice feeling.

Thank you to Joan and all of our incredible volunteers
New Strategic Plan: continued from page 2

- Expand and deepen community partnerships
- Strengthen our board, volunteer and professional leadership
- Increase donor engagement and support

Our strategic priorities include outreach and advocacy, people, programs and impact, and organizational sustainability. As a result of accomplishing these four strategic priorities, we will increase our client base by 25%, more than double the number of clients served in mobile or satellite locations, and ensure that 85-90% of volunteers, staff, board members and donors are highly satisfied with their WVCS experience.

We are excited to partner with you—our community—to help achieve these ambitious and exciting goals!

For more information about our strategic plan and to find out how you can get involved, contact Josh at josh@wvcommunityservices.org.

Seagate: continued from page 1

first floor. Carrie and Brian, however, had another vision: creating a special nook in each client room just for kids as a way to help families feel comfortable when they come to West Valley Community Services for help. The Martins have long been attracted to building and woodwork, so undertaking projects like our client room renovation is a natural fit. “Projects like these combine hands-on work with the satisfaction of really helping out people in a very direct, tangible way,” says Brian. Carrie adds, “West Valley Community Services is a well-regarded, reputable organization, and the project fit the Seagate team in terms of scope and skills.”

West Valley Community Services is very grateful to Seagate Technology, Seagate volunteers, and the Martin family for their incredible work, and for strengthening the community by supporting local needs and nonprofits.

Poverty Simulation—June 13

June 13, 2017 @ 6 pm
Quinlan Community Center
10185 N. Stelling Road
RSVP to annaw@wvcommunityservices.org

Almost 30% of Bay Area residents are unable to meet their housing costs and put food on the table for their families.

We invite you to a Poverty Simulation experience to learn first hand what it is like to live in poverty.

FREE and open to the community. Ages 12+ with adult supervision. RSVPs are required. Space is limited.
Donor Spotlight: George, Stephanie & Natalie Tyson

It all started in 2003, when an eighth grader named Natalie told her parents, “I have nothing to do this summer!” Her parents, George and Stephanie Tyson, were quick to look for nonprofits as a place Natalie could volunteer and found West Valley Community Services (WVCS). Soon enough, Natalie started volunteering at WVCS. The Tysons had no idea at that time that West Valley Community Services would become such a big part of their lives. Impressed with the impact of West Valley Community Services, George and Stephanie also started to volunteer and became donors. Natalie went away to college but George and Stephanie remained staunch supporters of West Valley Community Services year over year. In 2008 George became a board member until the end of his term in 2010, but continues to remain a dedicated volunteer and donor to this day.

Upon being asked why they support West Valley Community Services, George said, “It is very gratifying. I am just so proud of the organization. The range of support provided to the community is very impressive. Right from providing good quality food, to educating on nutrition and budget, financial and housing support, case management and connecting to resources, WVCS does so much to enable people in need in our community.”

George added that children in the Silicon Valley are very privileged and do not realize there is a world outside of that. Opening these kids to volunteering helps to increase empathy and growth.

West Valley Community Services is very grateful to the Tyson Family for their support, leadership, and commitment.

Securing our Future: Legacy Giving with WVCS

Impact Your Community...Create Your Legacy

Including West Valley Community Services in your estate plan enables you to make the most of your personal philanthropic objectives by supporting something you care about. Through a planned gift, you can expect to gain some or all of the following benefits:

- Allow your personal values to make a lasting impact on the community
- Help West Valley Community Services continue to fight hunger and homelessness
- Inspire others to join in your commitment
- Participate in special programs for Legacy Society members
- Gain valuable tax benefits

For more information about including WVCS in your will or estate plan, contact Kohinoor Chakravarty at kohinoorc@wvcommunityservices.org or 408.255.8033.

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